

**DRINK CONTAINER WITH MOLDED STRAW  
AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURE**

**Reference to Related Applications**

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No.  
now patent No. 6,336,566,  
5 09/431,492 filed November 2, 1999, which claims priority of U.S. Provisional  
Applications Serial Nos. 60/107,419 filed November 6, 1998 and 60/119,875 filed  
February 12, 1999.

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**Field of the Invention**

10 This invention relates to containers for liquids to be drunk from, and, more  
particularly, to such a drinking container equipped with a built-in drinking straw.

**Background of the Invention**

It is known in the prior art to combine the concept of a drinking container  
and a drinking straw into one convenient device. Moreover, it is also known to  
provide the straw in the form of a tube which is wrapped around the container.  
15 Such combinations are depicted in United States Patent No. 4,428,490 (Figure 7),  
as well as United States Design Patent Nos. 279,250 and 360,558. In these three  
designs, the straw is shown wrapped around the outside of the drinking container.  
There are also prior art designs involving a spiral straw and drink container  
wherein the straw is provided in some other relationship to the container. For  
20 example, United States Patent No. 4,191,302 shows a spiral tube provided as the  
base of the container, with the container vessel mounted on top of it. United  
States Patent No. 5,439,125 shows a container with a spiral drinking tube disposed  
inside the container. In addition, United States Patent No. 5,570,863 shows a